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Latin America

**REGIONAL AND
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Chile: Tough Measures

President Pinochet, in a rapid series of major policy moves, has demonstrated his tight control of the government and has signaled his intention to maintain a tough line. Pinochet has abolished the country's remaining political parties, extended the state of siege, and replaced two cabinet ministers. More changes may be in the offing.

The decision to ban all political parties came soon after Pinochet's public attack on all political groupings, in which he called them instruments of "subversion." The military disbanded parties of the left in 1973. Until now, however, parties of the center and right, although severely restricted, had survived. The latest move was aimed chiefly at the Christian Democrats, headed by former president Eduardo Frei. The party and Frei have been frequent sources of criticism and, in recent weeks, have appeared to be readying a now offensive against the government.

The junta also extended for another six months the state of siege. On March 11 it noted tersely that conditions warranting an extension still existed. Chile has been under a state of siege since the military takeover, although at a somewhat reduced level of emergency since September 1975.

The junta last week also swore in new ministers of justice and housing, as well as three sub-cabinet officials. The new appointments, following the formal resignation of the entire cabinet, fell short of the extensive changes anticipated. The President, however, has indicated that more changes may be in the offing. Pinochet said his decision to make the shifts was based on the need to overcome the "stagnation" that has set in and to establish a 'new rhythm.'

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